

Minutes of the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture
June 5, 2014

Attending: Barbara Costa (chaired), Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Adria Arch, David Ardito, Roland Chaput, Carla Dorato, Aimee Taberner (took minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by B Costa.

1. Minutes of May 8th meeting were reviewed and approved as amended.
2. A. Arch updated on status of Arts and Cultural Liaison position. Adria worked with Caryn Malloy, Town of Arlington Human Resources to create the position. Liaison will report to member of the ACAC and Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager. Position was posted in two ways, as a volunteer through the Town, and as an intern through the ACAC on Hire Culture. Ten resumes submitted. C. Malloy will review and screen initial applicants and ACAC subcommittee will interview finalists. ACAC sub-committee will consist of Adria Arch, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, and a third person, since Barbara Costa will be traveling later in June. Discussion of including other stakeholders such as Rose Austin or Jane Howard but consensus that member of Town should be involved in interview. S Marlin-Curiel will contact Adam Chapdelaine regarding his availability to be involved in interviews, and if unavailable, ask him to suggest alternate Town representative.
3. S. Marlin-Curiel updated on work of Master Plan review sub-committee (S. Marlin-Curiel, A. Taberner, C. Dorato). Comments on both the Economic Development and Historic and Cultural Resources papers were submitted with comments and cover letter. Ted Fields confirmed that comments on Economic Development paper were included, and the suggestion of a Cultural Plan will be added to the paper's recommendations. The Historic and Cultural Resources paper was sent to Laura Wiener and Carol Kowalski.
4. Discussion of May 8th meeting, which Laura Wiener attended. Discussion regarding accomplishments of the ACAC over the last year. Initial focus of commission on public art at time of first meeting was necessitated by destruction of bus depot mural and need to develop policies to ensure better care of public art going forward. Discussion of history of origins of the commission and public arts in general in the town, referencing former part-time town planner, Don Benjamin, who had been active in arts community as part of his town position but his position/role was not refilled after departure. Jane Howard identified that a Town Cultural Commission had been established in 1993 through a Town Meeting vote and established as part of vision 2020 but the commission had not been fully formed. ACAC re-established in January 2013, renamed May 2014) to serve as advisory board to the Board of Selectmen, with focus much broader than public art.

Suggestion that ACAC strengthen working relationship with Town employees to ensure there is a means for proactive communication and collaboration and an understanding of the ACAC's mandate. S. Marlin-Curiel to contact Adam Chapdelaine to arrange a meeting with ACAC members (S. Marlin-Curiel and A. Taberner) and town employees, starting with A. Chapdelaine and T. Fields.

Discussion for need of website to better communicate role of ACAC, and shared town arts and cultural calendar. C. Dorato mentioned Margy Rydzynski may be a helpful resource for ACAC

web development. A. Taberner suggested we consider allowing arts and cultural representatives to post events to the ACAC calendar, rather than all postings going through ACAC or Liaison, perhaps requiring Liaison to approve events postings in a timely manner.

5. B. Costa and S. Marlin-Curiel discussed next steps for Cultural Districting. Convene working groups in the fall to devise teams for districting. B. Costa or S. Marlin-Curiel to phone Meri Jenkins (MCC) to determine date when she can meet with ACAC, or sub-committee, and attend a kick-off meeting in the fall.
6. S. Marlin-Curiel discussed next steps for Cultural Planning process. Distributed draft organization of a Cultural Plan. Discussion about need to retain a consultant experienced in Cultural Planning to guide process and ensure that the plan is tied into the Town's broader economic development and tourism goals. Concern that lacking a professional consultant the Cultural Plan may not be as useful in facilitating directed growth in the arts and obtaining funding opportunities.

Cultural mapping is part of both Cultural Planning and Cultural Districting. Discussed need to work with town to gather relevant data (Arlington Cultural Council surveys, Vision 2020 surveys, Master plan documents, minutes of other arts and cultural meetings, and other data.)

Discussion regarding what Town resources can be made available to facilitate Cultural planning, and enable the ACAC to fulfill broader mandate. A. Taberner and S. Marlin-Curiel to discuss with Adam Chapdelaine. Identified need to research economic benefits of Cultural Plans and Cultural Districting.

7. Discussion of schedule:
Need to determine meeting dates for July and August. B. Costa to distribute doodle poll.
Reminder regarding the Master Planning Visual Survey deadline, June 10th. Focus is on architectural visual preferences, not necessarily the broader visual arena.
Reminder regarding Metropolitan Area Planning Council meeting ('Art, Culture, and Community') in Boston on June 26th.
Need to schedule fall ACAC summit to begin work on Cultural Districting, ideally in October.
Need Meri Jenkins in attendance.
8. Roland Chaput resigned from ACAC immediately and will notify Adam Chapdelaine.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Action Items:

1. Arts and Cultural Liaison Interviews. S. Marlin-Curiel, A. Arch, and town representative, ideally Adam Chapdelaine.
2. Contact Meri Jenkins at Massachusetts Cultural Council. B. Costa
3. Forward email re Public Arts Planning meeting in Boston and distribute scheduling doodle polls. B. Costa.
4. Meet with Adam Chapdelaine. S. Marlin-Curiel and A. Taberner
5. Begin research on economic benefit of cultural planning. A. Taberner